This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-21(cancelled).

22(currently amended). A purified DNA molecule encoding a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said B subunit comprises the 158 amino acid precursor protein as shown in <u>SEQ ID NO:4</u> Figure 6.

23(previously presented). An expression vector for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II in a recombinant host cell wherein said expression vector comprises a DNA molecule of claim 22.

24(previously presented). A host cell which expresses a recombinant a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said host cell contains the expression vector of claim 23.

25(previously presented). A process for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

- (a) transfecting the expression vector of claim 23 into a suitable host cell; and,
- (b) culturing the host cells of step (a) under conditions which allow expression of said B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein from said expression vector.

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/071,370

Group Art Unit: 1647 Examiner: Lockard, J.M.

Merck Case No.:18199CB Page -4-

26(currently amended). A purified DNA molecule encoding a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said B subunit comprises the 135 amino acid mature protein shown as residues 1-135 of SEQ ID NO:4 shown in Figure 6.

27(previously presented). An expression vector for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II in a recombinant host cell wherein said expression vector comprises a DNA molecule of claim 26.

28(previously presented). A host cell which expresses a recombinant a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said host cell contains the expression vector of claim 27.

29(previously presented). A process for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

- (a) transfecting the expression vector of claim 27 into a suitable host cell; and,
- (b) culturing the host cells of step (a) under conditions which allow expression of said B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein from said expression vector.

30(currently amended). A purified DNA molecule encoding a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said B subunit comprises the 138 amino acid precursor protein as shown in <u>SEQ ID NO:6 Figure 7</u>.

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/071,370

Group Art Unit: 1647 Examiner: Lockard, J.M. Merck Case No.:18199CB

Page -5-

31(previously presented). An expression vector for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II in a recombinant host cell wherein said expression vector comprises a DNA molecule of claim 30.

32(previously presented). A host cell which expresses a recombinant a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said host cell contains the expression vector of claim 31.

33(previously presented). A process for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

- (a) transfecting the expression vector of claim 31 into a suitable host cell; and,
- (b) culturing the host cells of step (a) under conditions which allow expression of said B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein from said expression vector.

34(currently amended). A purified DNA molecule encoding a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said B subunit comprises the 115 amino acid mature protein shown as residues 1-115 of SEQ ID NO:6 shown in Figure 7.

35(previously presented). An expression vector for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II in a recombinant host cell wherein said expression vector comprises a DNA molecule of claim 34.

36(previously presented). A host cell which expresses a recombinant a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor II wherein said host cell contains the expression vector of claim 35.

U.S. Application Serial No. 10/071,370

Group Art Unit: 1647 Examiner: Lockard, J.M. Merck Case No.:18199CB

Page -6-

37(previously presented). A process for expressing a B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein in a recombinant host cell, comprising:

- (a) transfecting the expression vector of claim 35 into a suitable host cell; and,
- (b) culturing the host cells of step (a) under conditions which allow expression of said B subunit of vascular endothelial growth factor protein from said expression vector.